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THE

PROSPECT;

OR,

THE GREAT ADVANTAGES

WHICH THE

COMMON PEOPLE OF ENGLAND

ARE LIKELY TO GAIN,

BY A

SUCCESSFUL INVASION

FROM THE

FRENCH.

THE SECOND EDITION.

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PROSPECT

THE GREAT ADVANTAGES

OF THE NEW METHOD

OF TEACHING

AND READING

TO CHILDREN

AND YOUNG PEOPLE

OF ALL AGES

AND SEXES

AND OF ALL CLASSES

AND OF ALL COUNTRIES

THE
PROSPECT, &c.

MY DEAR COUNTRYMEN,

YOU are now threatened with an Invasion from the French. Our enemies have often talked of making a descent on the coast of England, but now they are in earnest: and vast preparations are they making for this purpose. And indeed, there are many things to lead them to make the attempt. For in the first place, having carried every thing before them in other parts of the world, there is nothing left for their numerous armies to do, but to fight with us. And how much must they desire the conquest of England, on account of the vast treasures that are lodged in this country: for of all the nations they have hitherto plundered, none of them are to be compared, in point of wealth, to our own prosperous country. What a tempting object, therefore, must England be to these plunderers! O how they long to have the handling of our guineas; to empty our warehouses; and

to transport the rich produce of our lands ! The immense booty they would be possessed of by conquering this country, is enough to lead them to make the attempt, let the risk be ever so great : especially, when it is considered, that if they should succeed in this, then they will have accomplished the object they have long desired ; that is, to be the masters of the world, and to domineer over all nations.

And even if they have little hope of succeeding, still there is a great deal to lead them to make the attempt. For the persons who at present have the government of France in their hands, have reason to fear, that if they do not find something for their soldiers to do abroad, they will make dreadful work at home : they will turn their arms upon their own country ; destroy their present rulers ; and set up for themselves. The persons, therefore, who now govern France, very wisely animate their immense armies to attempt the invasion of England ; knowing, that if they perish in the attempt, so much the better for those who rule over them : the people in power will get rid of thousands of bloody and unmanageable ruffians, and will save their own throats from being cut. So that they are sure to be gainers by the event ; whether it be conquest, or defeat.

Having, therefore, so many reasons for endeavouring to invade England, there can be no
doubt

doubt of their making the attempt. The government of France has nothing to lose but the lives of its subjects, and for them it seems to care but little: the more there be killed, the fewer there will be to feed; and the fewer there will be to dread.

And now, since there can be no doubt that our enemies will attempt to invade us, let us consider what would be the consequences of their succeeding; I mean to the labouring people of this country.

Now there is no way of judging what the French are likely to do here, but by knowing what they have done in other countries which they have conquered. Of their behaviour in those places which they have subdued, we have abundant information. Their greediness and their cruelty to all orders of people have been such, that one cannot read the accounts of them without horror. It is quite a mistaken notion, that none suffered by them but the rich. The large contributions which they levied for corn, for flower, for bread, for oxen, for sheep, and for shoes, injured the poorest of the unfortunate inhabitants who fell under their power, by making a scarcity of these necessary articles of life. Yea, we find, that they not only made large demands of these articles for their own consumption, but that when their necessities were supplied, they would wantonly destroy what they could not

use : not sparing the cottages, and furniture of the poor, to which they frequently set fire. Nor is this all. The poor man was not only obliged to submit to have his watch taken out of his fob, his money taken out of his pocket, his shoes taken off from his feet, and his little stock of household furniture burned, but to have his wife, or his daughter debauched before his eyes. Some of these poor women were, in consequence of their humiliation, sent to their graves, after having lingered awhile under the pains of a loathsome disease. But others of them were dispatched in less time ; being violated by so many, as to expire in consequence of the numbers to whom they were forced to submit.

This is what they have done in the places which they have taken ; as you may learn from many authentic publications, not one of which has ever been contradicted*. Now what reason, my countrymen, have we to think, that should they conquer us, they will behave better to us than they have done to others ? Have they any partiality for us ? So far from it, that if there be nation upon the face of the earth which they

* As those to whom this paper is addressed have not much time to read, I would recommend one small book to their perusal, which will be sufficient to inform them of the behaviour of the French soldiery towards those whom they can subdue. I mean Mr. Aufrere's Account of the Behaviour of the French in Suabia. Sold by Hatchard, Piccadilly, and by Messrs. Rivingtons.

valuable; while others are employed without doors in seizing horses, cattle, and sheep, wherever they can find them. But do not think that they will give any part of their plunder to you, the poorer subjects of this realm. No; you will see them load waggon after waggon, with the booty they have collected: and you, without doubt, will be required to assist them in packing, and loading. You will be made to harness the horses, and to drive the teams down to the water-side, that from thence the spoil may be conveyed to France. And when you have done this, and they have no further occasion for your service, they will probably reward you for your trouble, by depriving you of your watch, by taking your money out of your pocket, and your hat from off your head; and if you have a good pair of shoes on, these it is likely they will ease you of: and then you may find your way back again, as well as you can, to your own home, without a farthing of money about you, to get one pint of beer on the road.

Why, Englishmen! could you bear this? To be the drudges and slaves of a parcel of outlandish fellows, who come swarming here like vermin to rob us of our own. But all this you *must* bear, if these fellows become our masters; yea, and much more; as I shall presently shew.

But let me return to the poor ill-treated Englishman, who has been dismissed from the
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water-side, without money, and without shoes. He reaches home at last, faint and foot-sore. And what does he find at home, even supposing that his house be standing, which it is ten to one if it be? It is ten to one but he find that his house has been burnt down to the ground in his absence. But even, I say, supposing that not to be the case, what does he find at home? little more than an empty house. He finds that the greedy enemy has not spared the cottage, any more than the palace. The best of his furniture, for which he worked hard, is gone. For every invader will be for carrying away something. The officers will serve themselves out of the spoils of the great houses; they will leave little in them for the common soldiers to take: These last, of course, will seize on the property of the poor. What the poor possess, an officer would not think good enough for him; but a coat, a pair of sheets, or blankets, a good pot, or kettle, is worth a common soldier's taking: and considering what numbers there will be of these men, it is a great chance if there be any thing left in the houses of the poor, but what is too bulky to remove, or too old to be worth carrying away.

Some poor man will say to me, perhaps, Well, if they take my all, they will not have much; for my all is but little. But friends and fellow-countrymen, this is not the case with every one of you; many of you have got a number of tidy

things about you : and if it were not so, still remember, that you have got a great deal to lose. I know, indeed, that you have not much property, but there is something that you value more than you do cloaths, or household goods. You have wives and daughters. Do you think that savage invaders would spare these ? Not they truly. Your poor weeping wives, and your virgin daughters, whose characters no man has ever yet been able to speak against, must submit to that which is worse than death. French soldiers will not regard their tears, nor the wringing of their hands, nor their moving intreaties made upon their knees, to those brutes in human shape. Nor will it be in your power, if they be masters, to defend your wives and children from them. The father, the husband, or the brother, will be, perhaps, tied up to a corner of the room, and made to witness the humiliation of a daughter, a wife, or a sister. O cutting thought to a British heart ! worse than the plundering of his house—worse, ten thousand times, than the destruction of all his little property !

This, my dear countrymen, this is what we have reason to look for, at the hands of French masters. This is no more than what they have done to others. From their behaviour in other places, we form our conjectures of what will be their behaviour here, if they can carry their point. But O who can tamely yield to this ! Awake, awake, Englishmen ! Let slaves submit
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to tyrants, but shall freemen follow their example? Shall we, who have been so long famed for patriotism, and for courage, sink at last into cowards? Shall we meanly surrender our rich and happy country, our personal liberty, the fruits of our labours, the faithful partners of our lives, and our spotless virgins, to a nation which we have hitherto been able to set at defiance?

To these things, I am persuaded, you cannot quietly submit. Only I am afraid of one thing, That some persons who wish well to the French, may persuade you that you have nothing of this to fear. They may, in order that this country may become a prey to the enemy, persuade you, that it is only against the rich people, that the French design any harm. Well; we will grant then, that the principal object the French have in view, is to down with the rich; and that they do not mean to offer the poor people any injury.

Now you shall see, how you will suffer, even on this supposition; which I believe to be much too favourable to the character of the invaders. Ah! my countrymen, that would be a black day for the common people, in which you should see the rich laid low.

For consider what plenty of employment there is for working people, through the rich having so much money to spend as they like. Don't

you

you find fault with their having so many good things; but remember, that though they spend much money on them, they spent a great deal of it among you. I will make that out to you very clearly.

Here is a man of great fortune, who chuses to build himself a new house; or to alter, or enlarge the one he already lives in. Well; this makes plenty of work for bricklayers, plasterers, carpenters, joiners, smiths, plumbers, glaziers, and painters. Suppose he had been contented to live in the old house, just as it was; why then he would have kept, perhaps, a thousand pounds in his pocket: instead of that, he has spent it; but among whom has he spent this sum? why the greater part of it has been divided among the aforesaid bricklayers, carpenters, &c. Perhaps he thinks his furniture is old fashioned; he will have new furniture. This makes plenty of work for cabinet-makers, upholsters, carvers, gilders, and carpet-weavers. Or perhaps he has a mind to alter his garden; to plant a shrubbery; to raise a mount; or make a canal: this gives bread to gardeners, and finds employment for a great number of inferior labourers. If he love fine cloaths, this occasions employment to wool-combers, spinners, cloth-weavers, stocking-weavers, taylors, tanners, shoemakers, button-makers, buckle-makers, hatters, &c. If he chose to have a great many servants, this enables you soon to get your children off
your

your hands; it finds places for your boys and girls, whom you would otherwise not know how to maintain.

But how is any thing of this kind to be done, when their money is gone? Where is the brick-layer, the carpenter, the smith, the taylor, &c. &c. to get bread, when the rich man, who had so much employment for them, has got no money to lay out? How can the smaller wheels in a mill be kept going, if the great wheel, which puts all the rest in motion, be broken? Such is the rich man to the labouring part of the community, when he lives expensively, and pays well. He gives employment, and bread, to vast numbers, who while they are administering to his pleasures, are getting bread for themselves and their families.

But when the owners of those great houses in which you now find employment are driven from them, what are you to do? You may indeed go and take possession of their empty mansions; but what are you to live upon, in them? You may indeed rip up the floors, and tear down the wainscoting, for fuel; with these spoils you may for a while warm yourselves with rousing fires: but can you fill your bellies with these materials? Can you make a meal on oak, or deal?

Perhaps

Perhaps in reply to this you will say, ‘ though our old employers could no longer give us bread, we should find work from new masters.’ —By the bye, you have never tried them; and therefore don’t know what sort of masters they will prove. But let that be as it may, I think there is reason to believe, that were the French to get possession of our island, there would not be, for a great while to come, any sufficient employment for the working people; and that one consequence of a successful invasion would be, that hundreds of them would perish for want of food.

For what with the quantity of money which would in that case be carried out of the country, and the vast sums that would be hidden, and the distrust and confusion that would prevail every where, all trade would be at a stand: and hereby, thousands of manufacturers, artizans and labourers, must be thrown out of employment.

And when trade and manufactures are stopped, then agriculture will fail. The farmer will not lay out his money for seed, nor hire labourers to work the land, if he have no chance of getting his money back again with interest, by selling his crop, when he brings it to market. And what chance will he have of this, if the numerous tribes of manufacturers, mechanics, &c. have no money to buy the necessaries of life? and how can they have money, if there be no employment for them?—Perhaps some of you
have

have not considered, how a brisk trade tends to make the land produce more than it otherwise would. But that may be made to appear very clear to you, thus; the more employment there is for carpenters, smiths, weavers, shoemakers, and other classes of working people, the more able are they to pay for their bread; and to have a little good meat and drink, as well as bread. This encourages the farmer and grazier to raise more grain, or rear more cattle. To speak of one article only; the manufacturers and other working people having all of them money to receive on Saturday night, are able to pay for their bread. This makes the baker's trade brisk. The baker's trade being good, makes the miller's trade good; and the prosperity of the miller's trade keeps farming alive; for the farmer being sure to find a customer for what he brings to market, is thereby encouraged to lay out more money on his land in draining, weeding, laying on manure, &c.; by this, his farm produces perhaps a third more than it would have done, if he had not laid out these expences upon it. So that here is *one third* more of the necessaries of life raised for the subsistence of the people, through the briskness of trade. But if trade should stagnate, then these improvements being expensive will be discontinued. The land will be neglected: instead of producing more, it will produce less. Nay, perhaps in many places, even the common cultivation will cease, to say nothing of improvements.

ments. In many places, it is probable, the land will not be sown; the tenant thinking it better to live upon what he has by him, than to lay out his money for feed, and labour, when there is little prospect of his ever seeing his money again.

And what must be the consequence of this neglect of agriculture? If the land bear not enough for the support of the inhabitants, then famine—famine, with all its horrors, will stare us in the face.

Nor will there be any relief for the poor, if the cause of such distresses be a french invasion.—The rich people, who in the last scarcity contributed to the support of the poor, will be no longer able to afford them assistance. Moreover, there will be no parish relief for the starving parishioner to look to; for the want of money, the loss of trade, and the confusion of the times, will prevent the collecting of the poors rates*. Nor will there be any hospital for the reception of the diseased poor; for the rich, who bore the expence of those charitable institutions, will be no longer able to support them: being deprived of all their property,

* It ought to be remembered, that the French government, with all its boasted regard to the comfort of the common people, has never yet decreed any rate for the maintenance of the poor.

they may want the necessaries of life for themselves, instead of having any thing to give away to others.

These are the blessings which the French stand ready to bestow on the common people of England. You see how much you are likely to be the better for them, should they be able to accomplish their designs. I have endeavoured, my countrymen, to apprize you of the worst that may happen, that you may be excited to the use of such means as may, with the blessing of God, prevent the threatened evil.

There is nothing which is more to be guarded against in these times, than a spirit of disunion. The agents of our enemies would persuade one part of the people that they have nothing to fear from the French; thereby endeavouring to prevent that consolidation of the national strength, which our present situation calls for. They endeavour to weaken the *whole* force of the community, by dividing it into *parts*. But, O my countrymen, guard against their insinuations. Now, if ever, be united. Stop not now to enquire, who were the beginners of the war—whose fault it is that the evil is come upon us: *It is come*; and we must fight it out. We have endeavoured to obtain peace; but it is evident that our enemies are not desirous of settling the difference. They make such demands as they know we will not comply with: nor do we
know,

know, to this hour, that they would make peace with us, even if we did comply with them.

Let us lay aside all our private opinions, and instantly combine in endeavouring to prevent the common danger. It would be an infatuation to lose time, and let the danger increase upon us, while one party is accusing the other. If the house be on fire, let every man take a bucket of water; it is no time, while the flames are spreading, to enquire how, or through whom, the misfortune happened.

Your all is at stake. The foe that threatens to invade you, will be as terrible to the poor, as to the rich. Rise up, therefore, Englishmen, as one man; and resist the approach of those enemies, whose lawless hands will spare neither your religion, nor your liberty, nor your property, nor your domestic comforts. If they are permitted to come hither, plunder, poverty, and famine, will come with them. Now, my countrymen, you can call what you have your own. You can enjoy the fruit of your labours. You can be masters of your own houses. If a villain offer an insult to your wives, or your daughters, you can chastise him, be he whom he may—whether he wear a laced coat or a ragged one. But farewell to all these privileges, if the French be not kept from our shores.

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If therefore you set any value on these privileges, neglect not the use of those means which may be necessary to preserve them. Be ready to act in concert with those, who may stand forth in the defence of all that is dear to us : for you have not only something of your own to defend, but you have an interest likewise in protecting the property of the rich ; as hath been clearly proved in the foregoing pages.

If you be called to learn the use of arms, believe not those calumniators, who would persuade you, that when government exhorts the people to arm, it means to trepan them into military service. Nothing can be more absurd than such an insinuation. Government must in the nature of things wish, that neither trade nor agriculture may be interrupted by the war ; which they must be, if every man becomes a soldier. All that is meant by exhorting you to learn the use of arms is this, that in case you should be obliged to employ them in your own defence, you may know how to use them with more ease, dexterity, and effect, than you could if you were not to practice a little beforehand. And surely I need not remind you, that such preparatory exercises tend as much to the safety of your own persons, as they do to the preservation of the state.

But let me not conclude this address without
making

making an observation, to which it becomes a Christian to call the attention of his country.

Do not forget that there is no protection like the protection of the Most High. Let it be our main care, therefore, that we do not provoke that God to give us up, who has hitherto stood by us. May we have grace to repent of our sins; for undoubtedly they are great, and many. May we humble ourselves before him, and obtain that mercy, which our bibles teach us to implore in the name of his blessed Son, the friend and advocate of penitent sinners. If God do not forsake us, all will yet be well. We may be shaken; but shall not be overthrown. I have no doubt that there are many amongst us, who fear his holy name: and I have, on that account, a good hope for my country. There is more-over strength enough in this kingdom to meet the intended attack, if that strength be combined, and exerted. And I trust that the ambition, the cruelty, the rapacity, and the insolence, which the enemy has shewn heretofore when victorious, will serve to call it forth.

For you, my countrymen, who have not been bred to the profession of arms, I trust there will be no occasion to draw the sword. I have a hope, that God Almighty will bless our arms by sea; and that the inhabitants of this island will only have to view the defeat of the invaders from our shores.

Never-

Nevertheless, let us be prepared for our enemies, in case they should effect a landing. Let the first sight they get of our coast, discover to their view, an excited and determined people. Should they have reason to think, that could they but make good a landing, England would be theirs, that thought alone might animate them to sustain all the dreadful fire of our ships. But of this they will not be so ready to hope, if they see our shores lined, as far as their eyes can reach, with thousands and tens of thousands of the natives, all armed, all ready to give them a warm reception, and to finish what our brave sailors, and marines, began.

Such a sight may compleat their despair ; and there may be nothing left for those who are stationed on the land to do, but to fall on their knees, and with eyes lifted up to heaven, to give God the praise, who gave the victory.

THE END.

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